

# Minuteman Missile

## Junior Ranger Program (Ages 7-11)

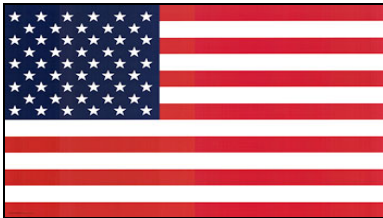
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Minuteman Missile  
National Historic Site  
Southwestern South Dakota



**Welcome Junior Rangers to Minuteman Missile National Historic Site!** Minuteman Missile is part of the National Park system. Minuteman Missile is the only National Park unit that tells the story of **the Cold War**.

The **Cold War** lasted from 1945-1989. During that time there was a long and troubled conflict between the **United States and Soviet Union**. This war was characterized by a huge weapons buildup on both sides. These weapons included nuclear missiles, such as the Minuteman. The first Minutemans were deployed in 1962, within 5 years a total of 1,000 Minuteman's were operational across the Great Plains region. These nuclear weapons were so destructive that they were used to keep one side from attacking the other. These weapons would only be used as a last resort.



United States

Versus



Soviet Union

Minuteman Missile National Historic Site is made up of two areas, Launch Control Facility Delta-01 and Launch Facility Delta-09. Beneath the Launch Control Facility is an underground Launch Control Center. In the event of a Soviet nuclear strike against the United States, this underground launch control center is where Air Force officers known as missileers could launch Minuteman Missiles. Launch Facility Delta-09 is a missile silo with a Minuteman II missile on display.



Launch Control Center Delta-01



Launch Facility Delta-09

**Your mission:** This Junior Ranger program is made up of the following four missions.

**1. Ready for launch: Questions? Questions?**

**2. Countdown: Symbols of Strength**

**3. Launch in Process: Word Search**

**4. Launch: Missile Jobs**

Choose any three of these missions to complete the program. Once you have completed the program mail the packet or give it to the ranger so they can grade your work.

## Mission 1 - Ready For Launch: Questions? Questions?



**Your mission:** As you start your journey to become a Junior Ranger, Minuteman Missile would like to know more about you. In addition, we would like for you to learn a little bit about Minuteman Missiles and the Cold War!

Who – are you? \_\_\_\_\_

What – brought you to Minuteman Missile? \_\_\_\_\_

When – were you born? \_\_\_\_\_

Where – are you from? \_\_\_\_\_

How – did you find out about Minuteman Missile? \_\_\_\_\_

Now we would like to see how much you know about Minuteman Missile. Use the information found on the introductory page to answer the following questions.

Who – were the two main nations fighting the Cold War? \_\_\_\_\_

When – did the first Minuteman Missiles become operational? \_\_\_\_\_

Where (region) – were Minuteman Missiles deployed in the United States? \_\_\_\_\_

How – many Minuteman Missiles were operational during the Cold War? \_\_\_\_\_

## Mission 2 - Countdown: Symbols of Strength

The 150 Minuteman Missiles in South Dakota were known as the 44<sup>th</sup> Missile Wing. Each wing was made up of three squadrons of 50 missiles. The Air Force personnel who worked in each squadron took great pride in protecting the United States. Squadron personnel developed logos to display their sense of mission. The logos shown below all symbolize in their own way the strength of the Minuteman system and the Air Force.

**Your mission:** Study the logos below, then design, draw and color your own Minuteman Missile logo.



### Mission 3 – Launch in Process: Word Search

**Your Mission:** To complete this mission, locate and circle at least 10 words in this word search. Words can be forward, backwards and diagonal so look carefully.

N N D O M I N O S M R M L E O  
C O M M U N I S M T I E A A C  
K I L O T O N S U S U A D H K  
T N E I S I T N S F I I U I O  
R U S C S N D I D R T Y N C R  
M T N B N E L I F H T T C S O  
I E O M L E L O G A U I I C I  
L I T T E O R I E P I C A A I  
L V A R S C L R S U E P S B D  
I O G B E F T T E S I L Q L N  
C S E T A T S D E T I N U E O  
T O M M R U D E A L E M A E E  
T S T A T I E L L K I D D D E  
E M T R F A I O D A E H R A W  
S S I O F S S R A W D L O C I  
R L U C M I N U T E M A N M U

Air Force  
Capitalism  
Cold War  
Communism  
Delta

Deterrence  
Flight  
HICS Cable  
ICBM  
Kilotons

Megatons  
Minuteman  
Missile Silo  
Missileer  
Solid Fuel

Soviet Union  
Squadron  
START Treaty  
United States  
War Head

## Mission 4 – Launch: Missile Jobs



There were many jobs available at the Launch Control Facility (LCF) – facility manager, flight security controller, security alert team, cook, and missile combat crew. All of these Air Force personnel were stationed at Ellsworth Air Force Base near Rapid City, South Dakota and had to drive to the LCF for their duty.

The facility manager was on duty for a three-day alert tour. The facility managers were responsible for managing the facility and supervising the topside crew. The facility manager was one of the only LCF personnel assigned a single room.

The flight security controller was also on duty for a three-day alert tour. From the security control room they monitored the LCF grounds, checked identification of visitors, and supervised the security police.

The security police checked the LCF site and responded to any security breaches in an armored vehicle.

One cook was scheduled for each three-day alert tour. The cook was responsible for serving four meals a day – breakfast, lunch, dinner, and a midnight meal.

The missile combat crew tour of duty was twenty-four hours. They worked from the Launch Control Center (LCC), located in a capsule below ground. Their most important responsibility was constant vigilance and preparation to launch Minuteman missiles under their control.

**Your mission:** Below are a series of pictures from both inside and outside of Launch Control Facility Delta-01. Use the job descriptions on the previous page to help you decide which of the Air Force personnel would live and work in these areas (or vehicles!). Write your answers in the blank beside the picture.



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***Congratulations!*** You have now completed the Minuteman Missile Junior Ranger program. To make sure you receive an official Junior Ranger certificate and patch write your name and address in the spaces provided below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Our Mailing Address: Minuteman Missile National Historic Site  
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Philip, SD 57567